

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05409 121527Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /108 W

----- 057811

R 121405Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7812

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND PINR UR

SUBJECT: A.N. KATRICH REPLACES A.I. SEMENKOV AS FIRST
DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

REF: EAL

1. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (MCA)
OFFICIALS REGARDING AEROFLOT WASHINGTON-MOSCOW INAUGURAL
FLIGHT, NAME OF COLONEL GENERAL A.N. KATRICH WAS GIVEN AS
NEW FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION. KATRICH
REPLACES A.I. SEMENKOV IN THAT FUNCTION.

2. DURING SPASO HOUSE RECEPTION APRIL 11 IN HONOR OF
SECRETARY BRINEGAR, AT WHICH KATRICH WAS IN ATTENDANCE,
MCA CONTACTS TOLD EMBOFF THAT SEMENKOV'S NEW POSITION IS
"HIGHER" THAN THAT OF MINISTRY, AND INDEPENDENT OF IT.
HE WILL HEAD NEW ORGANIZATION, SAID TO BE "STATE COMMITTEE,"
WHOSE FULL TITLE APPARENTLY IS STATE COMMITTEE FOR FLIGHT
SAFETY (GOSODARSTVENNIY KOMITET PO BEZOPASTNOSTI
VOZDUSHNYKH POLYOTOV). ONE MCA CONTACT, CANDIDLY
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT LOW QUALITY OF AIRCRAFT AND COMPONENTS
IS SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH HAS LED TO MANY CATASTROPHES
OVER PAST YEARS, INDICATED THAT SEMENKOV'S NEW ORGANIZA-
TION WILL HAVE WIDE AUTHORITY TO ASSURE ADOPTION OF
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05409 121527Z

CORRECTIVE MEASURES BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. (FYI:

CONTACT FURTHER STATED THAT THIS ORGANIZATION NOT CONCERNED
WITH SUCH MATTERS AS HIJACKINGS. AIRCRAFT SECURITY IN
THAT SENSE CLEARLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CERTAIN SOVIET
ORGANIZATIONS HAVING EXPERTISE IN AREA OF SECURITY
IN GENERAL. END FYI)

3. EMBOFF FURTHER LEARNED THAT KATRICH WILL HEAD
SOVIET CONTINGENT ON AEROFLOT MOSCOW-WASHINGTON INAUGURAL
FLIGHT, NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 10.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW05409
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740085-0493
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740446/aaaabozn.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A.N. KATRICH REPLACES A.I. SEMENKOV AS FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION
TAGS: EIND, PINR, UR, AEROFLOT, (KATRICH, A N), (SEMENKOV, A I), (BRINEGAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005